

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05508 180604Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CU-04 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /127 W

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R 180303Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9567

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN ABSENCE FROM UNIVERSIAD

1. ROK PRESS HAS PROMINENTLY CARRIED THE STORY OF NORTH KOREAN DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSIAD GAMES IN MOSCOW. AUGUST 16 PAPERS REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF NORTH KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PYONGYANG WOULD NOT SEND A TEAM TO MOSCOW BECAUSE IF TEAMS FROM THE TWO KOREAS PARTICIPATED IT WOULD HELP THE SOUTH KOREANS "IN THEIR SINISTER PLOT TO SOW DISSENSION AMONG THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." THE STORY OFFERED A READY POINT OF CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT PARK'S LIBERATION DAY CALL FOR NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA TO JOIN THE UN TOGETHER AND REESTABLISH MUTUAL TRUST ON THE PENINSULA. FURTHER PERSPECTIVE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SUBSEQUENT HEADLINE STORIES OF THE WARM WELCOME GIVEN ROK ATHLETES BY THE RUSSIAN CROWDS. GOVERNMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE HEARLD ALSO CARRIED AP ARTICLE CALLING THE BOYCOTT A SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE RUSSIANS.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS THE NORTH AND NOT THE SOUTH WHICH IS USING THE GAMES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND THAT IN SO DOING IT HAS INDEED CREATED DISCORD IN THE  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05508 180604Z

COMMUNIST BLOC RATHER THAN THE WORLD HARMONY SOUGHT BY THE

ROKG THROUGH ITS OWN POLICY. THE FEW INSTANCES  
OF SIMILAR PAST BEHAVIOR BY NORTH KOREA IN REJECTING MOSCOW'S  
LEAD WERE CITED BY THE PRESS.

3. PRESS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NORTH KOREA HAS ALREADY  
PARTICIPATED SEVERAL TIMES IN SPORTS EVENTS AT WHICH ROK  
TEAMS WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING UNIVERSIAD GAMES IN FINLAND.  
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE NORTH'S CONCERN IS THAT THE GAMES ARE  
IN THE SOVIET UNION THIS TIME, EDITORIALS FIND DECISION TO  
AVOID JOINING THE SOUTH IN THEM PUZZLING AND INCONSISTENT  
WITH PYONGYANG'S DESIRE TO JOIN THE WHO AND OTHER INTER-  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE ROK PARTICIPATES.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS OPENLY PLEASED ABOUT WHAT IT CONSIDERS  
SERIOUS NORTH KOREAN BLUNDER WHICH GIVES MAJOR TACTICAL ADVANTAGE  
TO ROKG IN PROPAGANDA CONFLICT WITH DPRK. IN ADDITION,  
MOFA IS IN PROCESS OF CAREFULLY ANALYZING SIGNIFICANCE OF  
NORTH KOREAN ACTION IN TERMS OF DPRK RELATIONS WITH  
USSR. MOFA UNDERSTANDABLY HOPES THE RIFT BETWEEN DPRK  
AND USSR ON ROK PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSIAD CAN BE  
EXPLOITED TO ROK BENEFIT.

HABIB

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